

# Project Kenny

## Our Mission:

To provide support to military veterans and service members using canines and other therapeutic techniques.



Eric Koivisto, Executive Director (Retired Army CW2, Special Forces)  
Carol Salveson, CPDT-KSA (Retired Air Force Msgt)

# Services Provided by Project Kenny:

## **PRIMARY**

- Fully trained service dog to veterans
- Veteran-Owned Service Dog Training

## **OTHER**

- Facility dogs
- Therapy dogs
- Emotional Support Animal
- First Responder Support (not part of our mission statement, but we will help if needed)

Over 30 dogs trained & placed in less than 5 years (includes veteran-owned), but a waiting list of over 60.



# Statistics

## Post Traumatic Stress (PTS)

**Operations Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Enduring Freedom (OEF):**

Between 11 & 20% have PTSD.

**Gulf War (Desert Storm):** 12% have PTSD .

**Vietnam War:** 30% of Vietnam Veterans have had PTSD in their lifetime.

**Military Sexual Trauma:** 23% reported sexual assault when in the military.

## SUICIDE

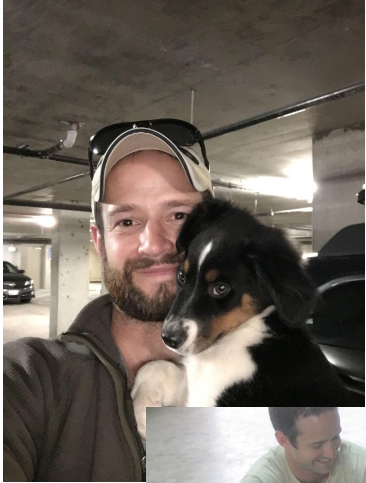
**Overall:** Veterans in 2019 reflected a suicide rate 52.3% higher than non-Veterans in the U.S., an average 17.2 Veteran suicides per day

**First Responders:** ...suicide monitoring groups believe that the rate of suicide for first responders may be as high as 65 in 100,000 or 170% the military rate.

([https://wyoscholar.uwyo.edu/articles/thesis/PUBLIC\\_PTSD\\_PERCEPTION\\_FIRST\\_RESPONDER\\_AND\\_MILITARY\\_MEMBER/13701103](https://wyoscholar.uwyo.edu/articles/thesis/PUBLIC_PTSD_PERCEPTION_FIRST_RESPONDER_AND_MILITARY_MEMBER/13701103))



# Why I Do This? Shared love of dogs and a heart for veterans.



Bobby Doolan  
18 Mar 86 - 6 Mar 2017



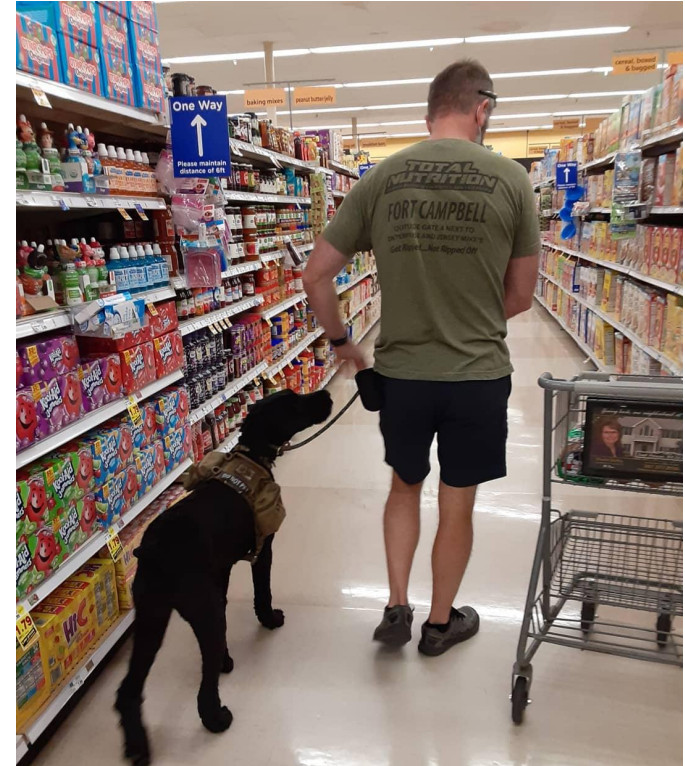
# Why a Service Dog?

A service dog doesn't cure Post Traumatic Stress (PTS), it helps the veteran get through it.

“...participants paired with a service dog experienced a reduction in the severity of PTSD symptoms ... and had fewer suicidal behaviors and ideations,...”

*(2020 Study:*

*<https://www.research.va.gov/REPORT-Study-of-Costs-and-Benefits-Associated-with-the-Use-of-Service-Dogs-Monograph1.pdf>)*



# How do we train a service dog?

- **Project Kenny focuses on positive based training**
- Generally takes 1.5 to 2 yrs to completely train a dog from puppy to service dog.
- Service dogs must be able to work in all environments.
- Required to pass AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Test and a Public Service Access Test



# What do the dogs actually do?

- Interrupt nightmares
- Paw, nose, or jump on a person that is having an anxiety attack, PTS triggers, etc.
- Search/clear a house
- Help with mobility if needed, i.e. pick up objects off the floor.
- Provide deep pressure therapy by laying on the person's legs or chest.



# What our veterans say:

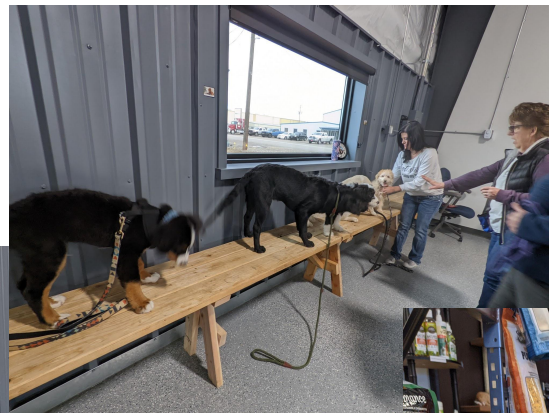
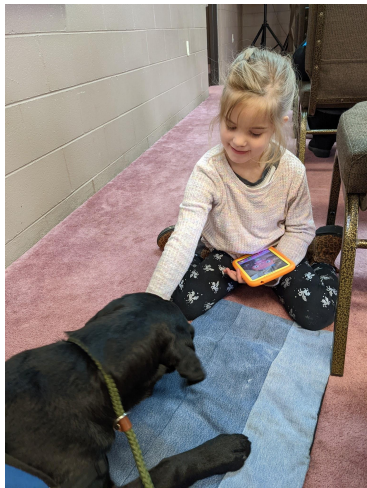
Prior to [dog's name] arriving, there was so much stress and anxiety in the house and [dog's name] has been able to reduce it.”

Carol helped in training him in anxiety, night terror interruption and to space himself between me and other people to keep them out of my personal space, which is extremely triggering and stressful. Carol's help in training my dog has opened the world to me again. I'm now able to do things and go places I would have otherwise avoided in the past.”

[Dog's name] is the kind of creature that makes you think dogs are angels in disguise. She will quietly lay at my feet when she can tell I'm upset. She gives me a kiss and a look of love before she'll take a bite of her food. She comforts my children when they're sick and she wasn't trained to do that. She realized (after a few short months) my stress is directly tied to the health and welfare of my family; by helping them, she is helping me.

[Dog's name] has changed my life. I haven't been violent or cried since I've had him. This is the first Christmas in over 12yrs that I've been sober and happy.

# Where we train and what we do:



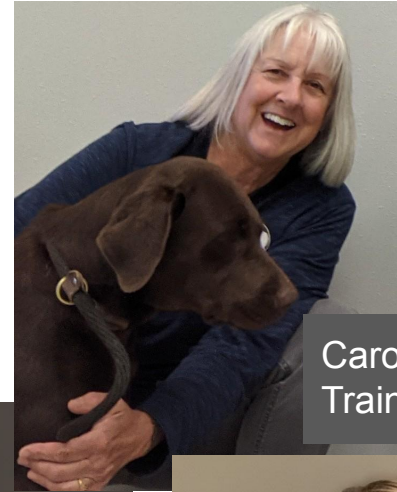
# Key Members



Matt Sauri -  
Founder



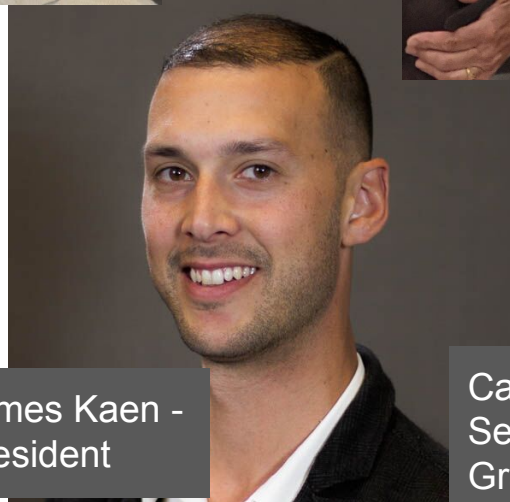
Eric Koivisto -  
Executive  
Director  
Co-founder



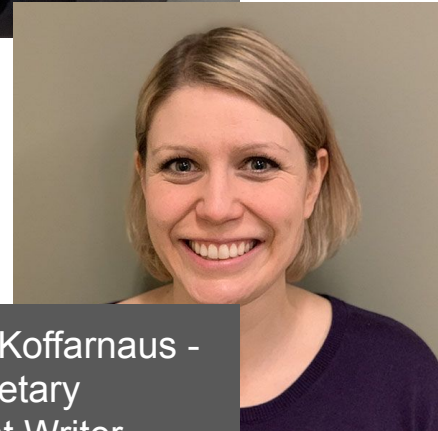
Carol - Lead  
Trainer



Joey Neilson -  
Treasurer,  
IT Expert



James Kaen -  
President



Cait Koffarnaus -  
Secretary  
Grant Writer

# Where are we headed:

**Veteran-owned Service Dog Training:** We would like to expand this service outside of Casper.

**ADI Certification:** Assistance Dogs International (3 Year Process once we become conditional members. If the PAWS Act expands, ADI certification is crucial to supporting our veterans.

**Paid Staff:** Currently Project Kenny is staffed by 100% volunteers. At some point, we want to add a Trauma Resiliency program with a paid counselor and a paid trainer on staff.

**Breeding Program:** By selectively breeding our dogs, we can breed for temperament and intelligence.

**Permanent Training Facility:** Currently hold a 5 year lease on a training facility.



# How Can You Help?



**Help us get the word out. Let people in other communities know that we're here to help.**

**Help us obtain continued funding, especially from Wyoming sources. Most funds come from outside Wyoming.**

**Support federal legislation such as the PAWS Act.**

**Refer veterans that may benefit from our program.**



# THANK YOU!

Thank you for your time.

[www.projectkenny.org](http://www.projectkenny.org)

Facebook: projectkennyorg  
Projectkennycasper

Instagram: projectkennyorg

QUESTIONS?

